



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST APPRECIATION DAY

- WHEREAS: Child life specialists provide children and families with emotional support and offer coping strategies in response to illness, injury, disability, trauma, or hospitalization; and
- WHEREAS: Child life specialists are skilled in the areas of child development, psychology, and counseling, and primarily work in medical settings such as hospitals; and
- WHEREAS: These health care professionals help to decrease the stress and anxiety often experienced in medical settings by engaging children in therapeutic play, diagnostic education, and specialized activities designed to help patients better understand and confront challenging situations; and
- WHEREAS: Child life specialists help to cultivate interactions conducive to positive child development to ensure the emotional health and well-being of young people during prolonged hospital stays; and
- WHEREAS: Child life specialists recognize parents, siblings, and other members of the family as an integral part of the health care team working to address a childhood illness or injury; and
- WHEREAS: On Child Life Specialist Appreciation Day, the State of Georgia recognizes our state's child life specialists who work hard to promote the growth and development of children experiencing medical challenges; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2018, as CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST APPRECIATION DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF